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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1944

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Mildenhall in the County of West Suffolk for the
year ending 31st December, 1944.

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Public Health Offices,
Westgate House,
Bury St. Edmund's.

October, 1945.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Mildenhall.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for
your favourable consideration my ninth Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health, being that for the year ended
31st December, 1944.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health,
Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham). Cert. Mental Deficiency
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed in 1936.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds
in addition the following appointments:- Medical Officer
of Health, Newmarket U.D.C., Cosford R.D.C., Thedwastre
R.D.C. and Thingoe R.D.C., Assistant Medical Officer of
Health, West Suffolk County Council, Venereal Diseases
Officer, West Suffolk, County Civil Defence Ambulance
Officer, West Suffolk.

- (b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector, H.W. Trotter, Cert. R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., Meat and Other Foods Certificate, R.S.I.,
appointed in 1934, who is also Building Surveyor,
Petroleum and Explosives Officer, and O/in C.,
Technical Services, Civil Defence, to the
Authority.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	86,759 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	13,370.
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book .	3,625.
Rateable Value.	£55,814.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£208.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	247	124	123
Illegitimate	18	11	7

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	2	-	2

<u>Deaths.</u>	146	34	62
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Birth Rate. Mildenhall 19.8; England & Wales 17.6.

Stillbirth Rate per 1000
total (live & still)
births " 29.3

Death Rate per 1000
resident population. " 10.9 " " 11.6

Death Rate of Infants
under 1 year.
All Infants per 1000
live births. " 49.1 " " 46.
Legitimate Infants per
1000 legitimate births. " 52.6
Illegitimate infants per
100 illegitimate births. " NIL.


13 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (7 males and 6 females all legitimate). One death from maternal causes (Heading 29), 20 deaths from Cancer and no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough and one death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

Live Births during 1944 were 49 more than in 1943, consequently the Birth Rate rose from 16.8 to 19.8. The Deaths in 1944 were only 2 more than in 1943.

Comparison with my first Annual Report, that of 1936, shows that the population has increased by 1080, that 219 more houses are inhabited and that the Rateable Value and Penny Rate Product have increased by £17,751 and £41 respectively.

Below is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various Age Groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.		Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.														Registrar General's Figures.	
		Under 1 Year		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards			
M. = Male. F. = Female.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
6.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
7.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
9.	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M)uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	5	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6	-	10	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	7	7	7	8
19.	Heart Disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	22	15	25	25	16
20.	Other diseases of the circulatory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
21.	Bronchitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	5	5	2
22.	Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
23.	Other Respiratory diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
24.	Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
25.	Diarrhoea (under two years of age.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
26.	Appendicitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
27.	Other digestive diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	2
28.	Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	1
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
31.	Premature birth.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
32.	Congenital malformations birth injury, infantile disease.	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
33.	Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
34.	Road traffic accidents.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
35.	Other violent causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
36.	All other causes.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	5	12	10	10	14
TOTAL. Males.		7	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	17	53	84					
Females.			6	1	-	-	2	6	5	42							62



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SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION ON HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge provides these facilities for a lump sum which covers also any specimens examined in emergency by the West Suffolk General Hospital.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. With the exception of Brandon, the District relies for general and maternity cases on ambulances from outside our area, Santon Downham and neighbouring parishes being serviced by the ambulance from ~~Disse~~ ^{THETFORD}, Gazeley and the neighbouring parishes relying on the Newmarket ambulance, the remainder of the District being covered by the Red Cross ambulances from Bury St. Edmund's. The Red Cross Society is about to supplement its ambulance strength at Bury St. Edmund's and probably to provide an ambulance to be stationed at Mildenhall. These additions, together with co-ordination of all the Red Cross ambulances through a central office, will, it is anticipated, most effectively cater for the general and maternity cases in the whole of the Mildenhall District.

Throughout 1944 the Civil Defence Services were available for the transport of scabies and other cases not deemed suitable for transport by a Red Cross ambulance. Now that the Civil Defence Services have been disbanded it is suggested that an ambulance suitable for the transport of scabies cases be provided by the County Council and centred at the scabies treatment clinic in Bury St. Edmund's.

Infectious Diseases cases are removed by the ambulance provided by the Newmarket R.D.C. and kept at their Isolation Hospital at Exning.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The local Nursing Associations which are financed partly by contributory scheme, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by County Council grants, carry out this work through their nurses who are residing in the villages of Brandon, Icklingham, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, and Moulton, whilst some parishes on the periphery are served by the nurse residing at Barrow.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. The County Council during the year took steps by newspaper advertisement and other means to publish the addresses and times of the various clinics and treatment centres which are available to the inhabitants of Mildenhall District.

(e) HOSPITALS. The District is exceptionally well served for general hospital facilities by the West Suffolk General Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Along with many other parts of the country Mildenhall is short of maternity accommodation.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, Section 3, places an obligation on the Council to give a piped water supply to every house provided it can be done at a reasonable cost. Already 1741 houses, which is 41% of the total inhabited houses in the District, have a piped water supply - there are no standpipes in the District. The Council have had a report prepared by their Water Engineers, Messrs. Willcox and Simpson, in order that they may consider providing piped water for the parishes of Tuddenham, Cavenham, Icklingham, Herringswell and Higham and also extending certain of the existing mains in parishes already part provided with a piped water supply. These proposals include provision of

a new reservoir on the Tuddenham and Worlington Road at Cherry Hill (500,000 gallons), which, together with the reservoir at Codson Hill, Eriswell, will give a storage approximately equal to three days' supply for the areas to be served from the Eriswell bore. A provisional estimate of the cost of these extensions based on 1939 prices is £38,400.

The average daily output from the Council's three pumping stations in December was as follows:-

Mildenhall Area	-	94,000	gallons.
Moulton	"	32,000	"
Brandon	"	80,300	"

A large number of houses still remain to be connected to the Council's mains. In many cases applications from owners have been outstanding since 1940 - the main difficulty has been scarcity of labour.

During 1944 8 samples of water were analysed from public piped supplies and were all found to be satisfactory. Of 20 samples analysed from private sources, 13 were found to be unsatisfactory or suspicious. Where adverse results were obtained, the house was either connected to the piped supply or a suitable warning notice was given.

(ii) DR. IN. GE. AND SEWER. GE. The water schemes have increased the need for sewerage schemes, of which there are none in the District. The Council, hoping to take advantage of grants under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, have had prepared three sewerage schemes to serve Brandon, Lakenheath and Mildenhall.

Nineteen new drains were laid and connected to existing or new cesspools. 5 defective drains received attention. Nuisances from over-full cesspools have been prevented or relieved by clearance with the Council's Mechanical Cesspool Emptier which, during the year, made 315 clearances of cesspools involving some 600 loads. In addition, the machine has been employed in the neighbouring area of Thetford Borough, Newmarket and Stowmarket Urban Districts, Chesterton, Newmarket (Cambs.), Ely (Isle of Ely), Downham, Swaffham, Wayland (Norfolk), Cosford, Clare, Melford, and Thingoe (W. Suffolk) Rural Districts.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. Although the work of the various Drainage Boards as part of their agricultural policy has resulted in an improvement in the condition of rivers and streams throughout the District, analysis of river water gives results which does not warrant the Council giving their approval to these rivers as swimming pools. Persons still use the local rivers for swimming at their own risk - a risk which probably may be taken on many occasions without ill resulting, but undoubtedly there is a potential danger which may flare up at any moment. The provision of a public swimming bath at Mildenhall has been mooted, such a bath would fill a very definite need and would remove this potential danger.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The weekly clearance of pail closets in parts of the parishes of Mildenhall, Brandon and Lakenheath was continued during 1944. The number of pail closets dealt with in each of these parishes is approximately 200, 430, and 210.

During the year 5 vault closets were converted to pail closets and one to a water closet and 7 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition 11 new water closets and two new pail closets were provided.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. This service was continued throughout the whole district - material collected for salvage produced £389. 15s., which is £66 less than in 1943.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Mr. Trotter has supplied the following tabular statement.

<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	
Inspection of houses under Public Health and Housing Acts.	146
Buildings under Building Bye Laws	47
Council house management	166
Tents, vans and sheds	27
Factories and workshops	21
Shops	18
Schools	7
Cowsheds	31
Slaughterhouses	6
Disinfections and disinfestations	5
Nuisances investigated	37
Number of water samples	28
Evacuation	215
Public conveniences	50
Drainage, closets and cesspools	112
Salvage	<u>82</u>

92 informal notices and 5 statutory notices were served.
70 informal notices were complied with as were 2 statutory notices.

Factory Act, 1937.

As a result of 21 inspections, 2 informal notices were served to remedy an insanitary condition of a urinal and to provide additional sanitary accommodation.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

As a result of 18 inspections, 4 defects were found and remedied - this resulted in two new water closets being provided and in two cases new drainage.

(v) CAMPING SITES. 27 inspections were made to camping sites, of which there are 33 in the district with an estimated number of occupiers totalling 132.

Following an unsuccessful appeal by the owner of a site, which the Council refused to license, the land became occupied by a number of caravans. Prosecution and conviction followed.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action necessary.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. The district's needs have been noted under the heading of "Rivers and Streams" above.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. 3 privately owned dwelling houses were disinfested by the use of "Lawveside" applied by spray by the Council's officer.

4. SCHOOLS. As a result of 7 inspections no action was found necessary in any of the school buildings. In one case, however, after an informal notice, an accumulation of refuse was promptly removed.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 158
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 197
- (2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 4
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 4
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 4
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. 154
- (5) Number of houses demolished during the year as the result of Demolition Orders served prior to 1939 2

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers:-

By owners	72	}	89
X Local Authority	17		

X Houses requisitioned for Evacuees.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Number of dwellings rendered fit as the result of service of Statutory Notices. 2

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding.

As reported in my previous Annual Reports, correct information regarding overcrowding in the District is not available. It is hoped that now, with the recommencement of building programmes made possible, advantage will be taken of the "Hobhouse" Survey to gain the necessary information on overcrowding and to deal with such cases as may be determined.

The Council took prompt action as the war reached its termination to carry out the Housing Survey of all Houses in the District as suggested in the Third Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee ("Hobhouse")

A Sub-Committee - consisting of Mr. B. Lingwood, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. d'O. Whitehead, Chairman of the Council, Mr. R. Spooner, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Messrs. Dow, Bailey and Llewellyn Davies, together with the Local Representative of each parish as it is being inspected - has completed the survey of all the parishes in the District with the exception of Brandon, Elveden, Mildenhall, Santon Downham, Wangford, and part of Lakenheath. The houses in the parishes completed have been categorised as in the table on the following page.

Where possible the condemned food was utilised for animal feeding purposes.

(c) Adulteration etc.	}	NO
(d) Chemical & Bacteriological Examination.		
(e) Nutrition.	}	CHANGE.
(f) Shell-Fish (Molluscan)		
(g) Water Cress.		

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population notified during the year:-

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1944.

	Total Cases Noti- fied.	-1	1	2	3	4	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	Over 65	Adm. to Hosp.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	30	-	1	1	2	6	2	15	3	-	-	-	-	-
	34	-	2	2	2	7	2	15	3	1	-	-	NIL	NIL
Infective Jaundice	5						3				1	1		

The number of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Infective Jaundice) in 1944 was 34 - an increase of 20 on the previous year.

207 children (143 age 0-4 years and 64 age 5-14 years) completed the course of Diphtheria Immunisation during 1944. By the end of 1944 it is estimated that 86% of children under 5 years of age and 98% of children between 5 and 15 years of age had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation course.

76 cases of Scabies were treated during 1944, which compares favourably with 178 cases in 1943 and 112 cases in 1942.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

<u>Years.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M.-	F.	M.	- F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-54	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-64	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	2	1	-	2	1	-	1

19 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, Respiratory Male 5, Female 5, and Non-Respiratory Male 5, Female 4. This is a decrease of 5 on the 1943 figure.

